

Tragically — there is a great ignorance among the people of God about what GOD & THE BIBLE HAS TO SAY ABOUT SEX.

We as evangelical Christians MUST remember & hold to this - God speaks a lot about sex, sexuality, marriage, joy & lovemaking. It's good. It's God-Given. It's commanded. It's to be enjoyed [in marriage]!

Dr. Harry McGee wrote a booklet: "*The Scriptures, Sex, and Satisfaction*" (studying 1 Cor 7.1-6) & gave 7 principles...

- 1.** sexual relations within marriage are **holy** and **good** (Heb 13.4)
- 2.** pleasure in sexual relations is NOT forbidden but rather **assumed** (Prov 5.18-19 & Song of Songs)
- 3.** Sexual pleasure is to be regulated by the key principle that one's sexuality does **NOT exist for himself** or for his own pleasure, but for his partner. (It should be thought of it this way: in marriage your 'rights' are totally and fully given to your partner.)
- 4.** sexual relations are to be **regular** and **continuous**. (Both parties are to provide such adequate satisfaction that both 'burning' (unfulfilled sexual desire) and the temptation to find satisfaction elsewhere are AVOIDED.)
- 5.** the principle of **mutual satisfaction** means that each party is to provide the sexual enjoyment which is 'due' his or her spouse whenever needed. (But remember, requests for sexual satisfaction must never be governed by an idolatrous lust, but neither should it be used as an excuse for failing to sense and satisfy a partner's desire & need.)
- 6.** in accordance with the principle of 'rights', there is to be **NO sexual bargaining** (e.g., I'll not have sex with you unless you...).
- 7.** sexual relationships are **equal** and **reciprocal**. Mutual initiation, stimulation, foreplay, and participation in the sexual act is not only permissible but enjoined. marital rights entail mutual responsibility.

"Don't try to separate sex from the rest of your marriage. It is neither an afterthought nor the starting point. Satisfying sex is vitally linked to every other topic and subject in the Christian marriage. . . . your enjoyment of physical intimacy WILL NOT be complete until you've cultivated spiritual and emotional intimacy" (Gary Riccuci)

THESIS — 4 helps for ALL married couples for a God-exalting & God-worshiping understanding of & enjoyment of sexual intimacy...

I. VERBALLY ADMIRE YOUR SPOUSE! (1-6)

- ▶ This is the fullest detailing of her physical charms found in the Song of Songs.
- ▶ This poem reflects the perpetual charm of the FEMALE FORM & BODY to the male. He is utterly enthralled with & drawn to his wife!
- ▶ Hear this: the description here is intimate and personal -- NOT lustful, perverted, or disrespectful.

10 traits:

Song of Solomon 7 — “The God-Blessed & God-Given Thrill of Verbal Admiration & Sexual Exhilaration in Marriage!”

As a footnote: if a husband takes notice of & admires ALL the bride's body & parts, how much more does Christ notice & love & care for ALL of the members of HIS Bride, the Church!

Husbands = we learn something. A woman finds sexual intimacy MOST satisfying when it takes place in a context of intimate sharing, communication, and affection. THOSE TAKE *T-I-M-E*. But loving your wife VERBALLY is very important as also is making love to her physically. Remember, touch her heart and mind before you touch her body (Gary Riccuci).

How does the gospel of our Bridegroom's great love for us shine forth?

II. TENDERLY EMBRACE YOUR SPOUSE! (7-9a)

Now, the man is gonna describe his wife (lover) by comparing her with a PALM TREE -- the husband's desires are strong & passionate.

“The believer is the supreme object of the love of Christ, wherein he delights. There is NO lovely nor delightful thing in all the world, that Christ cares for, or esteems, as he does the believer... Christ's affection is engaged to us!” (James Durham)

III. PASSIONATELY DESIRE YOUR SPOUSE! (9b-10)

So *profoundly passionate* & wondrously intimate is this moment -- **she** *interrupts* him mid sentence & speaks.

I am my beloved's (verse 10a) — This statement includes:

- (1) Commitment
- (2) Exclusivity
- (3) Selflessness
- (4) Permanence
- (5) unity/togetherness
- (6) Delight
- (7) passion

His desire is for me! (verse 10b) —

There is an allusion/echo back to GARDEN OF EDEN in all this --- purity, exclusivity, marriage, enjoyability, togetherness, unity. It's almost as if here in Song 7.10 we see a momentary glimpse of the reversal of the fall.

Song of Solomon 7 — “The God-Blessed & God-Given Thrill of Verbal Admiration & Sexual Exhilaration in Marriage!”

HUSBANDS: does your wife know this? (could she confidently say: ‘his desire is for me?’):

1. **passionate** desire
2. **exclusive** desire
3. **pursuing** desire
4. **genuine** desire
5. **selfless** desire (not just to 'get sex')
6. **increasing** desire

IV. SEXUALLY ENJOY YOUR SPOUSE! (11-13)

4 thoughts concerning this for wives & husbands:

1. make time to be alone (11a)
2. enjoy intimacy with one another (11b-12)
3. selflessly give for the other's delight (12b)
4. speak tenderly & exclusively with your mate (13)

What about a wife who is eager for sexual intimacy but the husband shows *little* interest or *seldom* initiates.... what should this wife do? That can hurt very deeply.

Betsy Riccuci provides 4 simple encouragements to this woman in this position...

- (1) **Bathe your concerns in prayer** -- persistent, clear, bold, shameless, specific prayers
- (2) **prepare your thoughts carefully** (even write them out, and then pray them thru)
- (3) **ask the LORD to keep your heart right** (don't give any place for disrespect, bitterness, arrogance, revenge, anger, fear)
- (4) then lovingly, **tenderly appeal to your husband** and express your desires.

We must remember = The sex-act is much more than a physical act, it is a symbol of a spiritual relationship and the expression of the complete oneness of two persons in married love ... it is the means by which they are confirmed and nourished in that union (Dwayne Harvey).

Sexual intercourse is *the* physical establishment and confirmation of that ONENESS in the marriage.

The true beauty & glory of sex is in its ability to enhance this personal unity between two persons who are covenanted together for life (Wayne Mack).

As a whole, what can we learn from Song 7?

What does Song of Songs 7 teach us about the **MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP?**

- ✓ The husband verbally admires & adores his bride.
 - ✓ the husband longs for and pursues his bride sexually
 - ✓ the wife knows and affirms he loves and pursues and wants her
 - ✓ she initiates and invites sexual intimacy with her husband

What does Song of Songs 7 teach **THEOLOGICALLY** about **CHRIST OUR BRIDEGROOM & HIS BRIDE?**

- ✓ Christ verbally admires and adores his blood bought Bride
 - ✓ our groom, Christ, longs for and pursues his bride with tenderness & longing for the day when we meet face to face
 - ✓ the bride knows and affirms that CHRIST loves us and pursues us and wants us.
 - ✓ the Church make and invites regular times of being alone with Christ (means of grace/communion).

COME YE SINNERS!

Come, ye sinners, poor and wretched,
Weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus, ready, stands to save you,
Full of pity, joined with power.
He is able, He is able;
He is willing; doubt no more.

Come ye needy, come, and welcome,
God's free bounty glorify;
True belief and true repentance,
Every grace that brings you nigh.
Without money, without money
Come to Jesus Christ and buy.

Come, ye weary, heavy laden,
Bruised and broken by the fall;
If you tarry 'til you're better,

You will never come at all.
Not the righteous, not the righteous;
Sinners Jesus came to call.

Let not conscience make you linger,
Nor of fitness fondly dream;
All the fitness He requires
Is to feel your need of Him.
This He gives you, this He gives you,
'Tis the Spirit's rising beam.

Lo! The Incarnate God, ascended;
Pleads the merit of His blood.
Venture on Him; venture wholly,
Let no other trust intrude.
None but Jesus, none but Jesus
Can do helpless sinners good.

HERE IS LOVE!

Here is love, vast as the ocean,
Lovingkindness as the flood,
When the Prince of Life, our Ransom,
Shed for us His precious blood.
Who His love will not remember?
Who can cease to sing His praise?
He can never be forgotten,
Throughout Heav'n's eternal days.

On the mount of crucifixion,
Fountains opened deep and wide;
Through the floodgates of God's mercy
Flowed a vast and gracious tide.
Grace and love, like mighty rivers,
Poured incessant from above,
And Heav'n's peace and perfect justice
Kissed a guilty world in love.

Let me all Thy love accepting,
Love Thee, ever all my days;
Let me seek Thy kingdom only
And my life be to Thy praise;
Thou alone shalt be my glory,
Nothing in the world I see.
Thou hast cleansed and sanctified me,
Thou Thyself hast set me free.

In Thy truth Thou dost direct me
By Thy Spirit through Thy Word;
And Thy grace my need is meeting,
As I trust in Thee, my Lord.
Of Thy fullness Thou art pouring
Thy great love and power on me,
Without measure, full and boundless,
Drawing out my heart to Thee.

PRAYER GUIDE:

- ✓Prayers of **praise** — for God's character, for Christ's love, for His security, and His pursuit of us.
- ✓Prayers of **petition** — for the marriages at CFBC to be pure, intimate, sanctifying, Christ-honoring
- ✓Prayers for **seminary students** — prayer for Ratan (South India) & Faly (Madagascar) & Warner (CFBC)
- ✓Prayers of **comfort/intercession** — prayer for strengthening of CFBC members, comfort, edification, hope.
- ✓Prayers for **purity** — pray specifically that God would spare CFBC from *all* immoralities (porn, adultery, lust, etc).